

INTELLIGENCE, IT & COMMS

The Army's intelligence and communications experts use cutting-edge technology to gather information about the enemy and pass it on securely to make sure the Army is always one step ahead.



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ELECTRICIAN ROYAL SIGNALS

SIG390/399 Updated December 2008

Installation, maintenance and reparation of generators, power supplies and lighting

AT A GLANCE

ROLE Regular Soldier
TERRITORIAL ARMY OPTION Yes
SEX Male/Female
AGE RANGE 17–33 yrs
MIN SERVICE 4 yrs
QUALIFICATIONS REQUIRED GCSEs or Level 2 equivalent
MIN GRADE D in Mathematics or Physics based Science

The job

As a Royal Signals Electrician you are literally the power behind the Army's communication systems. Royal Signals Electricians install, maintain and repair vital field-distribution power-supplies and lighting. You will also be responsible for the mechanical and electrical repair of the Army's field generator systems and will receive lots of hands-on training on how they work and what to do when they don't. The Army needs power and light wherever it goes and it would be your job to provide it – whatever the conditions or location.

The right job for me?

Royal Signals Electricians need to be physically strong, with a robust personality and an interest in electrical and power systems.

Ideally they should have an inquisitive mind and a flair for improvisation; they require dogged determination to overcome unforeseen problems. Applicants must not suffer from any form of dermatitis.

What skills will I learn?

- Skilled in the mechanical and electrical repair of various field generators.
- You will learn how to install and maintain field-distribution power and lighting systems.
- You will liaise with the customer to establish their requirements and brief and advise senior managers.
- You will be taught to drive a car and may learn to drive an LGV.

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What training will I do?

■ Initial training

Every Royal Signals recruit is firstly trained to become a soldier and then a tradesman. Recruits will begin their military career at Army Training Regiment (ATR) Pirbright, in Surrey. Recruits will complete a 14-week training course which teaches key military skills such as foot drill, how to handle and fire a weapon, how to live and work in the open and how to tackle an assault course, as well as developing stamina and fitness. When you have completed the course, you will take your place in the Passing Out parade in front of an invited audience of parents, relatives and friends.

■ Further training

On completion of basic training you will move to Blandford Forum in Dorset to start trade training (Phase 2) at the Royal School of Signals. This next phase of your training consists of 25 weeks of training in the following fields.

■ Electrical engineering theory and practice

Conceptual and hands-on training to give you the skills required to repair and maintain power distribution equipment, generator and battery systems.

■ Safety practices and procedures

To make sure you and your workmates are always safe from the dangers of electrocution.

■ Driving

You will learn to drive cars and LGVs with or without trailers.

What qualifications can I get?

There is a series of City & Guilds certificates for dedicated Electricians, including: Basic Engineering Competencies; Engineering Systems Maintenance (Parts 1 and 2); Management of Electrical Equipment Maintenance; Inspection and Testing of Electrical Equipment; and City & Guilds Level 3 in Electrical Installation. Royal Signals Electricians are required to gain their Cat B+E (car/trailer) and C+E (LGV/trailer) driving licences. During trade training, you can gain elements of European Computer Driving Licence (ECDL) at Level 1 Units 1, 2, 3 and 7 plus Key Skills in Application of Number, Information and Communication Technology at Level 1. (All

qualifications are subject to successful passes in exams and the level of practical experience required.)

What future prospects and transferable skills will I have?

After trade training you will be posted to the Field Army as a Class 3 trained soldier and after a year's experience you will become eligible for upgrading to Class 2 and a pay rise. Promotion is based on experience, ability and merit. If selected, you could be promoted through every rank to Warrant Officer Class 1. You may then apply to be a Royal Signals Officer and be granted a Late Entry Commission as a Captain. Should you decide to leave the Army, you will have excellent skills under your belt for work in the telecommunications and information technology industries. Electricians can also volunteer to be Parachutists or Royal Marine Commandos, or serve with the Special Forces. It's also possible to join the famous Royal Signals White Helmets Motorcycle Display Team. Throughout your career you will enhance and develop many skills and gain qualifications which are accredited and recognised outside of the Army.

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